

**REMARKS**

The Office Action dated January 16, 2004 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Claims 1, 6, 7, and 26 have been amended and claim 5 has been canceled. No new claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1, 3-4, and 6-34 are pending in the application.

**Prior Art Rejections**

Claims 1, 4-12, 14-15, 22-25, 27, 30-31 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,616,522 (hereinafter "White"). Claims 3 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,507,521 (hereinafter "Steffens"). Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,411,167 (hereinafter "Mohr"). Claims 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,910,597 (hereinafter "Seko"). Claims 26, 28, 29 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,070,741 (hereinafter "Ervin"). Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,938,094 (hereinafter "Cochard"). Claims 1 and 26 are the only independent claims. The rejections are addressed below with regard to claims 1 and 26.

**Claim 1**

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by White. The rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn because White does not teach the claimed invention. For example, White does not disclose, teach or suggest "a mount, at least partially formed by a column" or "wherein the mount is configured to bend when tilting downward" as called for in newly amended claim 1. The Office Action states that reference numeral (66) in White is a telescopic mount. (See Office Action at p.2, ¶ 2). On the contrary, reference numeral (66) refers to a support bracket, not a mount. (See White col. 3, lines 11-13, Figs. 1 and 15). Furthermore, the support column jacket (34) and steering shaft (41) of White do not bend, but pivot "resulting in oblique or lateral outward movement of the jacket (34)." (White at col. 5, lines 14-18). In addition, Steffens, Ervin, Cochard, Mohr and Seko do not disclose,

teach or suggest a mount “configured to bend when tilting downward” as called for in newly amended claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-4, 6-25, 27, and 29-34 depend from claim 1 and are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable limitations set forth in these dependent claims.

#### Claim 26

Claim 26 is rejected as obvious over White in view of Ervin. The rejection of claim 26 should be withdrawn because the references, when taken separately or in combination, fail to disclose the claimed invention. For example, neither of the references disclose teach or suggest a transmission mechanism that “includes an endless belt for transmitting rotational movement of the steering device to the steering element” as called for in newly amended claim 26. The Office Action states that “White does not disclose the transmission arrangement.” (See Office Action at p. 5, ¶ 7). Furthermore, Ervin does not disclose “an endless belt,” but only a gear (38). (See Ervin at Fig. 1). In addition, Steffens, Cochard, Mohr and Seko do not disclose, teach or suggest “an endless belt” as called for in newly amended claim 26. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 28 depends from claim 26 and is allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable limitations set forth in this dependent claim.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

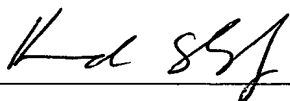
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or

even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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